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Chemical Corps Research and Development Command

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE LABORATORIES
Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland

CMLRD-BW-10-MB

7 February 1956

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

Thanks very much for the information on Bradley. As is your custom you have given me a clear picture of his strength and weakness. I am disappointed to learn that he is deficient in medical bacteriology and related fields, but this probably is not as important as good training in genetics if he is familiar with general microbiology.

My original plan was to select a head for the genetics group and then have him choose the less experienced investigators. In view of the few men available in the former category I have decided to look for three or four recent graduates first. Possibly we can find a suitable head for the group by being more patient and deliberate. If not, then we will just have to "cultivate" our younger men in the hope that one of them will be ready to assume greater responsibilities within three or four years. With these plans in mind it becomes quite important for us to select men with a high potential for professional and emotional maturity. We have been fortunate in obtaining one man who fits these qualifications. He is Jim Ogg who just received his Ph.D. with Zelle. He worked at Detrick two or three years before going to Cornell.

I would like to consider Bradley for a job similar to the one Ogg has taken. Unfortunately no funds are provided for bringing prospective candidates here to be interviewed. I could talk with him in Madison in the Spring or if he attends the SAB I could see him there. Your suggestion of recommending the job to him should provide the information required to determine any future action.


Hodges

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

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Thanks again for your sincere interest in our program. Werner will be here next week and I will be very interested to know if he has had an opportunity to contact Zinder for us.

Sincerely yours,


RILEY D. HOUSEWRIGHT
Chief, MB Division

RDH:mb

P.S. Did you know that Vernon Bryson had accepted a position as professor and vice-director of the Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers? I had hoped we could interest him in a job here but that is a closed case now.